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| TO: | COMPANY: | FAX NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| <u>Mail Stop RCE; Sheila Green</u> | <u>United States Patent and Trademark Office</u> | <u>571.273.8300</u> | <u>571.272.1000</u> |

FROM: John N. Coulby, III **Direct Dial No.:** 202.342.8829

DATE: June 9, 2006

CLIENT: 23660-00611

MESSAGE: U.S. Utility Patent Application No. 09/108,189
Attorney Docket No. 23660-00611
Examiner Mark K. Han
GAU 3767

Follow-up paper with the RCE filed June 1, 2006 in the above-referenced application.
Thank you.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re
Application of: Howard Tanner, et al.
Serial No.: 09/108,189 Examiner: M. Han
Filed: July 1, 1998 Group: 3767
For: AN INTRODUCER SHEATH FOR USE DURING A SURGICAL
PROCEDURE
Attorney Docket #: 23660-00611

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

In response to the Office Action dated December 1, 2005, Applicants submit the following remarks regarding the above-referenced patent application. The present claims in the application are reflected in the listing which begins on page 2 of this paper. Applicants remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.